United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Pacific Southwest Region

Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report

October 2011

Cleveland National Forest
Fiscal Year 2010

October 2011

Dear Cleveland National Forest Stakeholders:

I am pleased to present the Cleveland National Forest's annual monitoring and evaluation report for your review. The purposes of this report are to determine if plans, projects, and activities are implemented as designed and in compliance with the Cleveland National Forest ("Cleveland NF") Land Management Plan; to evaluate the effectiveness of the Land Management Plan; and to help identify potential future adjustments to the Land Management Plan.

Monitoring is emphasized and identified as a key element in all programs to assure achievement of the Land Management Plan's desired conditions over time. Each year we report on annual indicators of progress and every fifth year include a comprehensive review of any trends. This is the fifth monitoring and evaluation report produced since the Land Management Plan was revised in 2005.

Keeping Cleveland NF stakeholders informed of the results of our monitoring is important to me. This report will be posted on the Cleveland NF website at **http://fs.usda.gov/cleveland/**, along with additional information and opportunities on the Cleveland NF. If you are interested in becoming involved in project or other planning, please also see our national website at **http://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/forest-level.php?110502**.

Sincerely,

/s/ William Metz

WILLIAM METZ
Forest Supervisor
Cleveland National Forest

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Land Management Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report
Fiscal Year 2010

1. Introduction

This report documents the evaluation of projects selected from activities that were implemented on the Cleveland National Forest ("Cleveland NF") during fiscal year 2010, which began on October 1, 2009 and ended on September 30, 2010. The Cleveland NF Land Management Plan—referred to as the "Land Management Plan" or "LMP" throughout this document—went into effect on October 1, 2005. Projects with decisions signed after this date must comply with direction in the Land Management Plan. Decisions approved prior to this date that are not under contract or permit but continue to be implemented in phases are also expected to be consistent with the Land Management Plan. This report documents the evaluation of activities and the interpretation of monitoring data to determine the effectiveness of the Land Management Plan and addresses whether changes in the plan, or in project or program implementation, are needed.

2. Methodology

Monitoring is described in all parts of the Land Management Plan, with monitoring requirements summarized in Part 3, Appendix C. The Cleveland NF monitoring guide further details the protocols that were used in this review. This guide is available on request from the Cleveland NF environmental coordinator.

Part 1 of the Land Management Plan identifies outcome questions that will help to evaluate movement toward the desired conditions over the long term. The monitoring guide describes the baseline data that will be used to answer these questions and evaluate progress. A comprehensive evaluation of this progress is prepared every five years and is included in this monitoring and evaluation report. Part 2 monitoring is focused on program implementation including inventory. The current system tracks performance measures linked to the National Strategic Plan and reports accomplishments through a national reporting system (Performance Accountability System).

Implementation and effectiveness monitoring for Part 3 of the Land Management Plan was conducted at the project or activity level. A 10 percent sample of projects and ongoing activities was randomly selected and visited to review the application and effectiveness of the design criteria. If problems with documentation, or implementation were detected, or if the design criteria were determined to be ineffective, then the IDT recommended possible corrective actions. All recommendations are deliberative in nature and do not constitute a management requirement nor a commitment of funds. The following questions were asked for each reviewed project or ongoing activity:

1. By comparing expected results to actual results, did we accomplish what we set out to do? The protocol monitoring questions for review of each project or activity are:

Were relevant legal and other requirements applied to the project or site? Were Land Management Plan goals, desired conditions, and standards incorporated into operational plans, such as burn plans, allotment management plans, and facility master plans? Is LMP consistency documented, such as by a project-specific consistency review checklist?

Were National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") mitigation measures or Land Management Plan project design criteria implemented as designed? Were requirements from biological assessments, biological evaluations, heritage evaluations, and watershed assessments implemented?

To evaluate effectiveness, the review team asked: Have the project design criteria applied effectively improved environmental conditions as expected?

2. Why did it happen? If the Cleveland NF did accomplish what it had set out to do, the review team attempted to identify the reasons for success; conversely, if not, reasons why not. The Cleveland NF emphasized and sought out underlying cause-and-effect relationships, not individual performance or behavior.

3. What are we going to do next time? What activities should be continued to sustain success? Are changes needed to correct any implementation- or effectiveness-related failures? If change is needed, is an amendment or administrative correction to the LMP required?

Results, conclusions, and recommendations were documented on Land Management Plan monitoring and tracking forms and in this monitoring and evaluation report.

3. LMP Part 1 and Part 2 Monitoring

This chapter documents the monitoring of indicators of progress toward the desired conditions described in the Cleveland NF Land Management Plan (LMP, Part 1 monitoring) as well as addresses program implementation (LMP, Part 2 monitoring). Tracking annual indicators will help identify trends over time, as well as support comprehensive evaluations that will be prepared every five years after implementation of the LMP, including in this section.

The following goals are as listed in Part 1 of the LMP.

Forest Goal 1.1: Community protection (LMP, Part 1, pg. 19)

Goal: Improve the ability of southern California communities to limit loss of life and property and recover from the high intensity wildland fires that are part of California's ecosystem.

Activity, practice, or effect to be monitored: Vegetation treatments in the wildland/urban interface.

Monitoring questions: Has the Cleveland NF made progress in reducing the number of acres that are adjacent to development within wildland/urban interface defense zones that are classified as high risk?

Reference values (long-term/annual): Fire hazard/risk; annual indicators.

In fiscal year 2010, approximately 2,372 acres of hazardous fuel treatments in the wildland/urban interface were reported as accomplished. This contributes to the National Strategic Plan (objectives 1.1 and 1.3). The LMP identifies a more specific indicator focused on measuring progress toward increasing the level of the Cleveland NF fuels program in the wildland/urban interface defense zone described in the LMP.

Background on this indicator

The wildland/urban interface defense zone—that portion of the wildland/urban interfact that is directly adjacent to structures (LMP, Part 3, pg. 5, Standard S7; LMP, Appendix K)—has a variable width determined at the project level. The maximum width of the defense zone is defined for general vegetation types in Standard S7. For the LMP analysis, the maximum width was used. This information was used to represent the present, or "baseline," extent of the wildland/urban interface defense zone.

High hazard fuels are those that have the potential to burn with high intensity. Fire intensity affects suppression effectiveness in protecting structures in interface areas. A key strategy in the LMP is to reduce fire hazard adjacent to communities and structures to improve suppression effectiveness and provide defensible space in interface areas.

Risk is related to human values or risk of loss. The presence of structures is the indicator of risk in this analysis. Due to rapid development of private land in southern California, the inventory of areas with structures is constantly changing. Maps representing the wildland/urban interface defense zone are typically a year or more old and therefore should only be considered an estimate of the actual area pending period updates. The actual presence of communities and substantial structures is determined at the project level. In other words, the defense zone coverage or map is not an LMP decision. The decision is to apply the direction in LMP standards S7 (including Appendix K) and S8 to areas that are actually adjacent to communities or substantial structures at the time of project planning. Areas where old structures have been removed are not part of the defense zone. No Cleveland NF-wide, site-specific inventory of fuel hazard within the defense zone exists. In addition, high hazard conditions can be dynamic, returning in as little as five years after a fire in some vegetation types. For this reason, the hazard indicator is assumed to be high in all areas until a project level assessment determines otherwise. Therefore, the monitoring task is to track the level of management effort directed at reducing fire hazard in the wildland/urban interface defense zone including keeping the inventory of the actual defense zone up-to-date.

The method of calculating progress toward Goal 1.1 is summarized in Table 1. Indicators of progress toward Goal 1.1 will be calculated by using the wildland/urban defense zone from the Land Management Plan analysis database. Acres of treatments in the wildland/urban defense zone were calculated for each of the fire regimes and entered into column D in Table 1. These entries represent the annual indicator of progress toward the desired condition.

Every five years the number of high hazard acres within the defense zone should be calculated to use for documenting the trend as a long-term indicator. As part of the five-year monitoring process, the number of high-hazard acres will be re-calculated as the new baseline. Acres documented as being treated in the corporate reporting system can be assumed to no longer be considered a high hazard. The first monitoring and evaluation report after revision of the LMP showed that baseline acres from the previous year analysis was 10,230 acres and after 444 acres treated in WUI defense zone, adjusted to 9,787 acres left. This year's fifth year results (Table 1) show 8,652 baseline acres and 139 acres treated in WUI defense zone, leaving 8,513 adjusted acres left.

Table 1: Progress in treatment of wildland/urban interface defense zone, adjustments to baseline.

A	B	C	D	E
Baseline acres from fiscal year 2008 LMP analysis	**Acres removed due to new info on presence of substantial structures**	**Acres added due to new info on presence of substantial structures**	**Acres treated in WUI defense zone, per corporate database**	**(A-B) + (C-D) (adjusted acres)**
Fire regime I: 5,760 acres	0	0	74	**5,686**
Fire regimes III, IV, and V: 2,892 acres	0	0	65	**2,827**
Total: 8,652 acres	**0**	**0**	**139**	**8,513**

Table 2 shows the status of fuels accomplishment as per the Forest Service Activity Tracking System database. An annual query of this database measures the progress that the Cleveland NF has made to reduce the number of acres adjacent to development within wildland/urban interface defense zones and that are classified as high risk. Use of spatially explicit information for adjusting the baseline is important so the cause of changes in the numbers can be evaluated. Knowing if the change is due to improved inventory information, actual treatments, or both is important. Simply adding the annual indicator—that is, the number of acres treated—and subtracting it from the baseline could over-count maintenance treatments and would not take into account acres added due to new development. Part of our evaluation should determine if new development is adding to the defense zone increase because we have an LMP strategy to prevent that from happening through involvement in local planning.

The Cleveland NF focused vegetation treatments in the wildland/urban interface threat and defense zones (see Table 2). Approximately 2,372 acres were treated during fiscal year 2010. Some 85.1 percent of the acres treated were in the threat zone, while 12.1 percent of the acres treated were in the defense zone. Only 2.8 percent of the acres were treated in the wildland/urban interface environment zone, which is defined as that part of the national forest that lies outside the threat and defense zones. Of those 66.0 acres, 65.0 were treated as part of activities on the North Main Divide fuelbreak system.

Table 2: Treatments in 2010.				
Activity	**Wildland/Urban Interface Class**			**Total**
	Threat zone	**Environment**	**Defense zone**	
Broadcast burning	239.4	0	0	**239.4**
Burning of piled material	440.2	66.0	73.9	**580.1**
Fuelbreak	8.3	0	0	**8.3**
Piling	688.6	0	131.9	**820.5**
Precommercial thin	165.4	0	0	**165.3**
Pruning to raise canopy height	129.0	0	14.4	**143.4**
Rearrangement of fuels	27.6	0	12.1	**39.7**
Thinning for hazardous fuel reduction	237.4	0	55.6	**293.0**
Underburn	82.6	0	0	**82.6**
Sum of all acres treated (some areas had more than one activity type)	**2,018.5**	**66.0**	**287.9**	**2,372.2**
Percent of total	**85.1**	**2.8**	**12.1**	**100**

Trends in annual indicators for Goal 1.1: The Cleveland NF has achieved progress in meeting this goal. Starting with a baseline of 6,656 acres in the wildland/urban interface defense zone in Fire Regime I in fiscal year 2006, some 970 acres had been treated by the end of fiscal year 2010. Starting with a baseline of 3,574 acres in the wildland/urban interface threat zone in fire regimes III, IV, and V in fiscal year 2006, some 747 acres had been treated by the end of fiscal year 2010.

Overall, between fiscal years 2006 and 2010, approximately 1,717 acres have been treated in the wildland/urban interface defense zone. Many of these acres had multiple activities undertaking, such as an area that underwent piling and then burning of piles to reduce fuel loads.

Forest Goal 1.2: Restoration of forest health (LMP, Part 1, pg. 20)

Goal: Restore forest health where alteration of natural fire regimes has put human and natural resource values at risk.

Activity, practice, or effect to be monitored: Vegetation condition.

The overall longterm goal is to perpetuate plant communities by maintaining or re-introducing fire regimes appropriate to each type while at the same time protecting human communities from destructive wildland fires.

This indicator gauges departure from either the minimum or the maximum fire return interval. In 2006, the fire regime condition class monitoring indicator was updated using new mapping procedures. In the new GIS maps, information is provided on presumed fire return intervals from the period preceding Euroamerican settlement ("presettlement") and for contemporary fire return intervals, and comparisons are made between the two.

Current differences between presettlement and contemporary fire return intervals are calculated based on mean, maximum, and minimum values. This map is a joint project of the California chapter of The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Forest Service Region 5 Ecology Program (David Schmidt, fire ecologist, The Nature Conservancy; Hugh Safford, regional ecologist, U.S. Forest Service, Region 5).

The information was compiled from the fire history literature, expert opinion, data collection, and vegetation modeling. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire and Resource Assessment Program fire history database was used to characterize current fire regimes. The vegetation type stratification was based on the 1996 CALVEG map (U.S. Forest Service Remote Sensing Lab) for the four national forests in southern California.

For data limitations in these datasets, see the CALVEG mapping metadata:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/rsl/clearinghouse/data.shtml

and the California fire history database metadata:

http://www.frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/select.asp

Table 3 displays the baseline status as of 2006 for departures from the mean fire return intervals. Areas where the current interval is more frequent than expected are shown as negative numbers, while areas that have had longer than expected fire return intervals are shown as positive numbers.

A condition class of either 1 or -1 indicates that fire return intervals are within the expected range of variability around the mean for a given fire regime. Condition classes 2 or -2 indicate a moderate departure from the expected mean, while condition classes 3 or -3 indicate a high departure from the expected mean. Both moderate and high departures may indicate that altered fire regimes pose a risk to the ecological condition of the site. Type conversion from high fire frequencies (Condition Class -3) or de-forestation from wide-spread high severity crown fires (Condition Class 3) are more likely as the condition class rating increases.

Table 3: 2006 baseline status for departures from mean fire return interval.

Condition class	Acres	Percent of total
-3	40,319	10
-2	172,048	41
-1	138,992	33
1	30,466	7
2	9,503	2
3	21,932	5
Unclassified	9,197	2
Total	**422,457**	**100**

Trends in annual indicators for Goal 1.2: Based on fuel reduction and wildfire activities that have occurred between fiscal years 2006 and 2010, the baseline status for departures from mean fire return intervals will be updated. For example, areas in Condition Class 3 that underwent fuels reduction activities may be reduced to Condition Class 1. Areas that may have been in Condition Class -2 but which burned in the wildfires of 2007 potentially may be increased to Condition Class -3. These updated totals for condition classes will be reported in the monitoring report for fiscal year 2011 and will form the new baseline.

Forest Goal 1.2.1: Fire Regime I, 0 to 35 years, low severity (LMP, Part 1, pg. 22)

Goal: Reduce the potential for widespread losses of montane conifer forests caused by severe, extensive, stand-replacing fires.

Activity, practice, or effect to be monitored: Vegetation condition.

Monitoring questions: Is the Cleveland NF making progress toward increasing the percentage of montane conifer forests in Condition Class 1?

Reference values (long-term/annual): Condition Class Fire Regime I; annual indicators.

Table 4 shows that in fiscal year 2010 a total of 603 acres were treated in montane conifer in all fire regime condition classes. Some 577 acres (96 percent of all treated acres in montane conifer) were in Condition Class 3. Treating hazardous fuels in these areas that have missed expected fires is consistent with Goal 1.2.1 of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to reduce the potential for widespread losses of montane conifer forests caused by severe, extensive, stand replacing fires (LMP, Part 1, pg. 22).

Table 4: Acres treated in montane conifer by fire regime condition class.

Activity	Fire Regime Condition Class					Total
	-2	-1	1	2	3	
Burning of piled material	0	0	4	14	58	**76**
Precommercial thinning	0	0	0	0	3	**3**
Underburn	0	0	0	0	62	**62**
Piling of fuels	0	0	4	4	151	**159**
Pruning to reduce canopy heights	0	0	0	0	86	**86**
Thinning for hazardous fuel reduction	0	0	0	0	217	**217**
Total	**0**	**0**	**8**	**18**	**577**	**603**

Trends in annual indicators for Goal 1.2.1: Based on reported fuel reduction activities that have occurred from fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2010, approximately 1,720 acres were treated in montane conifer. Some 1,352 acres of the total, or 79 percent, were treated in

Condition Class 3, while 162 acres, or 9 percent, were treated in Condition Class 2. Over that same period, only 121 acres, or 7 percent of the total, were treated in condition classes -2 and -3.

Based on these data, the Cleveland National Forest has made good progress toward increasing the percentage of montane conifer forests in Condition Class 1.

Forest Goal 1.2.2: Maintain or increase percent chaparral and coastal sage scrub in condition class 1 (LMP, Part 1, pg. 25)

Goal: Restore forest health where alteration of natural fire regimes has put human and natural resource values at risk. Reduce the number of acres at risk from excessively frequent fires while improving defensible space around communities.

Activity, practice, or effect to be monitored: Vegetation condition.

Monitoring questions: Is the Cleveland NF making progress toward maintaining or increasing the percent chaparral and coastal sage scrub in Condition Class 1?

Reference values (long-term/annual): Condition Class Fires Regime IV, annual indicators.

As shown in Table 3, as of 2006, approximately 51 percent of the forest land area was at moderate to high risk of type conversion from excessively frequent fires (i.e., in condition classes -2 and -3). Unlike in Fire Regime I (conifer forest), vegetation treatments in condition class -2 or -3 move the area away from the desired condition by adding another burn or disturbance to a location that has already burned too frequently. The Cleveland NF strategy in treatment of chaparral and coastal sage scrub, therefore, is to focus vegetation management into direct protection of communities or in pre-identified strategic locations where protection of communities can be improved, such as major ridge tops that are upslope from developed areas. Fire history patterns show that fires often stop in the same locations due to topography or, sometimes, man-made features such as reservoirs or highways.

Table 5 shows that 1,478 total acres were treated in chaparral and coastal sage scrub, 16 percent of which were in positive condition classes, meaning that they were within the natural range of variability expected for this vegetation type. Most of the acres in negative condition classes—47 percent of the total acres treated in chaparral and coastal sage scrub—were treated by a piling, burning piled materials, or broadcast burning.

Table 5: Acres treated in chaparral and coastal sage scrub by fire regime condition class.						
Activity	**Fire Regime Condition Class**					**Total**
	-3	**-2**	**-1**	**1**	**2**	
Broadcast burning	6	124	108	0	0	**238**
Burning of piled material	16	163	166	25	116	**486**
Precommercial thinning	0	82	21	0	0	**103**
Underburn	0	0	0	0	18	**18**
Piling of fuels	16	279	174	0	38	**507**
Pruning to reduce canopy heights	0	4	16	0	37	**57**
Rearrangement of fuels	0	1	35	0	0	**36**
Thinning for hazardous fuel reduction	0	0	19	0	6	**25**
Fuelbreak	0	8	0	0	0	**8**
Total	**38**	**661**	**539**	**25**	**215**	**1,478**

Trends in annual indicators for Goal 1.2.2: Based on reported fuel reduction activities that have occurred from fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2010, approximately 4,733 acres were treated in chaparral and coastal sage scrub. Some 372 acres of the total, or 8 percent, were treated in condition classes 2 and 3, while 1,097 acres, or 23 percent, were treated in condition classes -2 and -3. Over that same period, 3,264 acres, or 69 percent of the total, were treated in condition classes -1 and 1.

Although 1,097 acres were treated in condition classes -2 and -3, which represent areas that have experience fire or disturbance more frequently than would be naturally expected, the areas that were treated are found mainly in areas that comprise wildland/urban interface defense or threat zones. Fuel reduction activities in these areas are expected to reduce the potential for wildfires to threaten the safety of persons living near the perimeter of the national forest.

Goal 1.2.3: Goal 1.2.3, which relates to maintaining long fire-free intervals in habitats where fire is naturally uncommon, is not addressed in this report because this goal was developed at a scope that accounted for all four southern California national forests and is primarily important on the three other national forests, not the Cleveland NF.

Forest Vegetation and Health Monitoring

The Forest Service Remote Sensing Lab provides inventories of vegetation resources in an ecological framework for determining changes, causes, and trends to vegetation structure, health, biomass, volume, growth, mortality, condition, and extent. The existing Cleveland NF vegetation map was completed in 2003 and is scheduled to be redone sometime in the near future. For details of the vegetation monitoring section, see: http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/rsl/projects/.

Aerial detection surveys are conducted annually. An overview of these surveys, as well as maps for the Cleveland NF, may be found at: http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/spf/fhp/fhm/aerial/index.shtml.

Widespread oak tree mortality is occurring on federal, state, private, and Native American lands in San Diego County, including the southern portion of the Cleveland NF. Researchers from the

Forest Service and other agencies discovered that dead and dying oaks were infested with a beetle called the gold-spotted oak borer (*Agrilus coxalis)*. The oak borer infests and kills California black oak, coast live oak, and canyon live oak. Due to current and potential impacts, both regionally and throughout California, multiple agencies and organizations are working together in the research, education, and outreach efforts regarding this pest. Information on the gold-spotted oak borer may be found at: http://groups.ucanr.org/GSOB/.

Forest health is monitored via annual aerial surveys that detect tree mortality. Survey information and mapping (in .pdf format or view using Google Earth and Google Maps) is available at the following websites, shown by year of survey:

2011: http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/spf/fhp/fhm/aerial/2011/kmz/index.shtml
2010: http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/spf/fhp/fhm/aerial/2010/kmz/index.shtml

Forest Goal 2.1: Invasive species (LMP, Part 1, pg. 31)

Goal: Reverse the trend of increasing loss of natural resource values to invasive species.

Activity, practice, or effect to be monitored: Invasive species.

Monitoring questions: Does the Cleveland NF inventory of invasive plant and animal species show a stable or decreasing trend in acres of invasive species?

Reference values (long-term/annual): Invasive plants and animals; annual indicators

During fiscal year 2010, according to the Forest Service Activity Tracking System database, approximately 229 acres of invasive species were treated on the Cleveland NF. This included 9 acres of mustard treated on the Trabuco Ranger District; 161 acres of tamarisk, tree tobacco, and Spanish broom treated on the Palomar Ranger District; and 56 acres of tamarisk and 3 acres of yellow star thistle treated on the Descanso Ranger District.

Trends in annual indicators for Goal 2.1: Because the Forest does not receive a level of funding sufficient to conduct a comprehensive inventory, we are unable to identify a stable or decreasing trend based on change from total inventoried acres. However, survey data is entered into the NRIS corporate database and acres treated are recorded in the FACTS database. Based on reported activities that have occurred from fiscal year 2008 through fiscal year 2010, approximately 428 acres were treated for invasive species on the Cleveland National Forest. Invasive species that were removed include tree tobacco, tamarisk, yellow star thistle, Spanish broom, and mustard. Eradication of new infestations and planning and treatment of riparian areas were emphasized. In addition to those acres being treated, each year six miles of San Mateo Creek were enhanced by removal of invasive species.

Forest Goals 3.1 and 3.2: Managed recreation in a natural setting (LMP, Part 1, pp. 33 to 36)

Goals: (3.1) Provide for public use and natural resource protection.
(3.2) Retain a natural-evolving character within wilderness.

Activity, practice, or effect to be measured: (3.1) Visitor use of the Cleveland NF. (3.2) Wilderness use.

Monitoring questions: (3.1) Are trends in indicators and visitor satisfaction surveys indicating that the Cleveland NF has provided quality, sustainable recreation opportunities that result in increased visitor satisfaction? (3.2) Are trends in indicators and visitor satisfaction surveys depicting the Cleveland NF has provided solitude and challenge in an environment where human influences do not impede the free play of natural forces?

Reference values (long-term or annual): (3.1) Visitor satisfaction; annual indicators. (3.2) Natural processes wilderness; annual indicators.

Annual indicators are recreation facilities managed to standard including natural resource protection as described in Goal 3.1. Meaningful Measures provides a framework for measuring this but the linkage to resource protection is not as clear. Implementation and effectiveness monitoring of resource protection actions required by standards S34 and S50 (including Appendix D) help to measure the resource protection element of this goal.

Long-term indicators are visitor use trends by activity and overall satisfaction from the National Visitor Use Monitoring ("NVUM") survey. The baseline NVUM survey reported 97 percent visitor satisfaction. The current report summarized data which were collected in 2009. Some 84.9 percent of respondents were satisfied with developed sites on the Cleveland NF; 95.5 percent were satisfied with access, including road and trail condition and parking availability; 79.4 percent were satisfied with services such as availability of information and signage; and 92.9 percent were satisfied with their perception of safety when they were recreating on the Cleveland NF. The report is available online at: http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/.

Trends in annual indicators for Goal 3.1 and 3.2: Based on both the baseline NVUM survey and the current report from data collected in 2009, the Cleveland National Forest maintains a high level of user satisfaction. No trends can be determined between the two reports, however, because different methodology was used. The current report will serve as the baseline for determining trends in goals 3.1 and 3.2 for the next five-year reporting period due in fiscal year 2015.

Heritage Resources
The desired condition is to preserve or enhance significant heritage resources. Fiscal year 2010 heritage program accomplishments under the Regional Programmatic Agreement ("RPA") include:

As part of the 147 individual cultural resource management projects completed by heritage program staff, 72 proposed undertakings were analyzed for potential effects on historic properties by the Cleveland NF heritage program manager. Some 65 of the 72 proposed

undertakings were determined to be compliant with Section 106 through the application of the stipulations of the RPA. Seven of the 72 proposed undertakings were reviewed and approved through the application of the Section 106 process in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Of the 65 undertakings approved as compliant under the RPA, 12 required cultural resources surveys for the identification of historic properties and the assessment of the potential for effects. Some 119 new sites, including prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and historic structures, were identified and recorded.

In fiscal year 2010, 12 proposed undertakings required cultural resource survey of the area of proposed effects. Surveys were conducted under the direct supervision of qualified cultural resource management professionals that meet or exceed Secretary of Interior standards for conducting cultural resource management activities on federal lands. Each survey was conducted in accord with the methodological requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and/or the RPA. Approximately 855.5 acres of Cleveland NF land was surveyed for cultural resources.

Based on the reported totals for Section 110 (cultural resource stewardship) accomplishments for the eight previous fiscal years and those accomplished in fiscal year 2010, the Cleveland NF will meet or has already exceeded the Section 110 goals defined in the Cleveland NF Section 110 Plan for the 10-year planning period that ends in fiscal year 2011. Final data regarding the accomplishment of the Section 110 goals will be reported to the State Historic Preservation Officer in the fiscal year 2011 annual RPA report.

Protection, rehabilitation, or stabilization of historic properties on the Cleveland NF during fiscal year 2010

Site protection measures were implemented by San Diego Gas & Electric ("SDGE") at a prehistoric archaeological site. SDGE had damaged the site and was served with a Notice of Violation in accord with the requirements of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act in fiscal year 2008. In association with that incident and prior site damage and mitigation measures that were issued in association with previous damage caused at the site by SDGE, and in an effort to protect the area around the electrical pole that has potential to be disturbed by future maintenance-related ground clearing, a 10-foot radius around the pole was covered with suitable landscaping fabric and capped with four inches of Class 2 road aggregate.

In an effort to further protect the residence tract access road that bisects the site, the portion of the access road that is within the site boundary was also covered with four inches of Class 2 aggregate. Monitoring of the site indicates that these measures are effectively protecting the site from potential effects associated with SDGE maintenance and vehicle activity, and the public use of the access road.

Air Resources

The desired condition is to remediate and prevent human caused impairments to air quality values. Under the USDA-Forest Service Region 5 air quality monitoring program, a sampling station near the Agua Tibia Wilderness Area monitors the air quality near this Class I airshed.

Information about this station, which is part of the Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments ("IMPROVE") national monitoring network, can be found at:

http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/improve/Data/data.htm (raw data)
http://vista.cira.colostate.edu/improve/Publications/improve_reports.htm (reports)

Forest Goals 4.1a and 4.1b: Energy and minerals production (LMP, Part 1, pp. 37 and 38)

Goals: (4.1a) Administer minerals and energy resource development while protecting ecosystem health.
(4.1b) Administer renewable energy resource developments while protecting ecosystem health.

Activity, practice, or effect to be measured: (4.1a) Mineral and energy development. (4.1b) Renewable energy resource development.

Monitoring questions: (4.1a) Has the Cleveland NF been successful at protecting ecosystem health while providing mineral and energy resources for development? (4.1b) Has the Cleveland NF been successful at protecting ecosystem health while providing renewable resources for development?

Reference values (long-term or annual): (4.1a) Energy success at protecting ecosystem health; annual indicators. (4.1b) Renewable resources success at protecting ecosystem health; annual indicators.

A record of decision for the Sunrise Powerlink, which authorized construction of a 500kV powerline across Forest Service land, was signed in July 2010. A decision memo authorizing a temporary wind measurement testing project on the Descanso Ranger District was signed in January 2010.

Trends in annual indicators for Goal 4.1a and Goal 4.1b: Based on projects and activities that have been analyzed and authorized via the National Environmental Policy Act process, the Cleveland National Forest continues to meet the intent of both these goals. Projects that meet the criteria of these goals include the Sunrise Powerlink, temporary wind testing, and approval of various plans of operation for hard rock mines on National Forest System lands.

Forest Goals 5.1 and 5.2: Watershed function (LMP, Part 1, pg. 39) and riparian condition (LMP, Part 1, pg. 41)

Goals: (5.1) Improve watershed conditions through cooperative management. (5.2) Improve riparian conditions.

Activity, practice, or effect to be monitored: (5.1) Watershed. (5.2) General forest activities.

Monitoring questions: (5.1) Is the Cleveland NF making progress toward sustaining Class 1 watershed conditions while reducing the number of condition class 2 and 3 watersheds? (5.2) Is the Cleveland NF making progress toward reducing the number of streams with poor water quality or aquatic habitat conditions?

Reference values (long-term/annual): (5.1) Sustaining Class 1 watershed conditions while reducing the number of condition class 2 and 3 watersheds; annual indicators. (5.2) Stream condition in impaired state-listed 303(d) streams; annual indicators.

With regard to Goal 5.1, a watershed assessment was done as part of the Land Management Plan revision process (see Table 6). Another watershed assessment will occur during the comprehensive evaluation for fiscal year 2010 monitoring.

Table 6: Watershed condition baseline.

Outcome indicator	Desired condition	Baseline Watersheds	Year 5	Trend	Trigger
Watersheds in Condition Class 1, Good	Maintained condition ratings	4			Decrease in number of Class 1 watersheds
Watersheds in Condition Class 2, Moderate	Maintained or improved condition ratings	8			Decrease in number of Class 2 watersheds
Watersheds in Condition Class 3, poor	Improved condition ratings	2			Degrading conditions in Class 3 watersheds

With regard to Goal 5.2, the LMP baseline was four streams listed as 303(d) impaired:

1. Santiago Creek, Reach 4.
2. Silverado Creek.
3. Aliso Creek.
4. San Juan Creek, Lower.

Of these, the 303(d) mapped reaches for Silverado and Santiago creeks are located on National Forest System lands. As of 2006, the following reaches on National Forest System lands were mapped in GIS files of the 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments (requiring total maximum daily loads ("TMDLs"), being addressed by the Environmental Protection Agency approved TMDLs and being addressed by actions other than TMDLs) created for reporting purposes by the state water resources control board and the regional water quality control board: Santiago, Silverado, Long Canyon, Temecula, and Pine Valley creeks.

In addition, portions of the following are listed as 303(d) and mapped segments are located below National Forest System lands: Aliso and San Juan creeks, and the San Luis Rey River. The state water resources control board website contains a disclaimer that GIS mapping of the TMDLs is subject to change as the effort may ultimately address more or less area than shown in present files. The Cleveland is actively working as part of TMDL compliance and working with outside agencies to the extent feasible.

The Cleveland NF's annual Best Management Practices Evaluation Program report was prepared and sent to the Regional Water Quality Control Boards. In addition, periodic road decommissioning projects are expected to contribute to improved watershed function as well as planned project to remove Aquatic Organism Passage barriers. We continue to look at watershed restoration projects and starting to complete planning processes.

In FY2010, the Cleveland NF completed the first steps of the Watershed Condition Framework which involved assessment of all HUC6 watershed including the evaluation for 24 distinct attributes. We have also designed two priority watersheds to focus funding and program of work to increase the watershed condition. Through the next years we will continue to designate priority watersheds and track watershed condition.

Forest Goal 6.1: Rangeland condition (LMP, Part 1, pg. 42)

Goal: Move toward improved rangeland conditions as indicated by key range sites.

Activity, practice, or effect to be measured: Livestock grazing.

Monitoring questions: Is forest rangeland management maintaining or improving progress toward sustainable rangelands and ecosystem health by increasing the number of key areas in good and fair condition?

Reference values (long-term or annual): Rangeland condition; annual indicators.

Table 7 displays the baseline and trend monitoring for the range and grazing for fiscal year 2010.

Table 7: Baseline and trend monitoring for range allotments in fiscal year 2010.

Outcome indicator	Desired condition	Previous monitoring	Current	Trend	Trigger
Livestock grazing areas in **good** condition	Maintain condition rating	13	13	Stable	Decrease in number of key areas in good condition
Livestock grazing areas in **fair** condition	Maintain/improve condition rating	12	12	Stable	Decrease in number of areas in fair condition
Livestock grazing areas in **poor** condition	Improve condition rating	1	1	Stable	Degrading conditions in key areas poor condition

Table 8 displays the most recent available allotment conditions.

Table 8: Allotment grazing conditions.

Allotment, pasture	Condition	Assessment type	Year
Black Mountain	Good—stable	Annual compliance monitoring	2009
Corte Madera, Lower Bear Valley	Good	Annual compliance monitoring	2010
Corte Madera, Lower Bear Valley, mesic	Fair—Good condition to recent range but increasing OHV trespass damage	Annual compliance monitoring	2010
Guatay	Good—good rainfall year, good diversity of desirable species, high ground cover	Annual compliance monitoring	2010
Indian Creek	Ungrazed, not monitored	--	n/a
Laguna, Kitchen Valley	Moderate	Annual compliance monitoring	2010
Laguna, Cameron, La Posta Creek	Moderate	Region 5 long-term trend monitoring	2010
Laguna, Joy Pasture	Low—2006 (needs re-read and site potential assessment)	Region 5 long-term trend monitoring	2006
Laguna, Long Canyon Pasture	Low—2006; Moderate—2009	Region 5 long-term trend monitoring	2009
Laguna Meadow, mid-meadow plot	Good—highly productive year	Annual compliance monitoring	2009
Laguna Meadow, Las Rasalies plot	High 2000, moderate 2005, moderate 2009, trend stable	Region 5 long-term trend monitoring	2009
Love Valley	High—stable to improving	Annual compliance monitoring	2010
Mendenhall, Lower	Good—highly productive year	Annual compliance monitoring	2010
Mendenhall, Upper	Good—highly productive year	Annual compliance monitoring	2010
Mesa Grande, Kelley unit	Fair – difficult to monitor	Rapid	2008
Miller Mountain	Good	Annual monitoring compliance	2010
Samataguma	Good	Annual monitoring compliance	2010
Tenaja	Good - ungrazed	Annual monitoring compliance	2010
Verdugo	Good	Annual compliance monitoring	2010
Warner Ranch	Good	Annual compliance monitoring	2008

Trends in annual indicators for Goal 6.1: Based on period monitoring, a majority of allotments or pastures remain in good to high condition (Table 8). One livestock area was found to be in poor condition (Table 7); however, this is due to the fact that unauthorized vehicle activity damaged the area. The monitoring report for fiscal year 2007 indicated that a downward trend for two locations was tied to the effects of drought and the Cedar fire. These areas have recovered and no longer have a downward trend.

Forest Goal 6.2: Biological resource condition (LMP, Part 1, pg. 44)

G**oal:** Provide ecological conditions to sustain viable populations of native and desired non-native species.

Activity, practice, or effect to be measured: General forest activities.

Monitoring questions: Are trends in resource conditions indicating that habitat conditions for fish, wildlife, and rare plants are in a stable or upward trend?

Reference values (long-term or annual): Threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species baseline; management indicator species habitat trends; annual indicators.

Species monitoring: In 2010, the Cleveland NF continued with monitoring specified in applicable biological opinions. The Cleveland NF annual report to the US Fish and Wildlife Service included the following species and monitoring activities, where applicable:

- Quino checkerspot: Surveys were conducted near Pine Hills, Loveland Reservoir, and Barrett Lake in 2010. No new checkerspot populations were detected.
- Laguna Mountains skipper: Surveys were conducted to monitor skipper populations at Palomar Mountain in 2010. Survey report sent separately to US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Arroyo toad: Arroyo toad populations were monitored where occurrences are near roads and campgrounds.
- California red-legged frog: No action in 2010. This species is extirpated from the Cleveland NF.
- Mountain yellow-legged frog: No action in 2010.
- Southwestern willow flycatcher: No action in 2010.
- California gnatcatcher: Restoration project underway at San Diego River.
- Least Bell's vireo: Checked population in Hauser Creek, it is stable.
- Western yellow-billed cuckoo: No action in 2010.
- Stephen's kangaroo rat: No action in 2010.
- San Diego thornmint: No action in 2010.
- Munz's onion: Checked on Elsinore Peak population.
- Braunton's milkvetch: No action in 2010.
- Encinitas baccharis: No action in 2010.
- Nevin's barberry: Rechecked population at Vail Lake. The population is stable.
- Thread-leaved brodiaea: No action in 2010.
- Vail Lake ceanothus: No action in 2010.
- Slender-horned spineflower: Rechecked population at Dripping Springs. Population may be declining.
- Oval-leaved dudleya: No action in 2010. The Cleveland NF population formerly thought to be this subspecies has been determined to be a different, non-listed subspecies of *Dudleya cymosa* (*pumila*).
- San Bernardino bluegrass: Contracted with consultant to check populations.

In addition, surveys for, or projects to benefit, the following threatened and endangered species occurred:

Munz's onion. Habitat was improved by removing a population of an invasive weed, yellow starthistle, near Elsinore Peak.

Laguna Mountains skipper. The Cleveland NF no longer surveys the Laguna Mountains for the skipper because the species is considered to be extirpated in the area. A contractor continued surveys in the Palomar Mountains. The Cleveland NF continued monitoring recreation use at the El Prado and Laguna campgrounds and the Meadow Kiosk. No problems were identified. Monitoring for the species continued at eight grazing exclosures on Laguna Meadow.

Arroyo toad. Monitoring of road killed arroyo toads and the effects of recreation residence permit renewal on the toads were completed. No mortality was detected. Habitat improvement work (e.g., noxious weed removal) was completed in Trabuco and San Juan canyons. Habitat improvement work (e.g., non-native fish and amphibian removal) was completed in San Mateo Canyon.

Southwestern willow flycatcher. Monitoring indicates that the species continues to use existing habitat and territories near the San Luis Rey River.

California gnatcatcher. In 2008 the Palomar Ranger District started a coastal sage scrub restoration project in the upper San Diego River area. Seeding is being used to regenerate coastal sage scrub vegetation that has been lost due to wildfires. The project plans are to seed 331 acres of habitat. This project is nearly complete. In 2010 an additional project to restore coastal sage scrub was initiated at the Monte Fire near El Capitan reservoir. Also in 2010 a protocol survey for California gnatcatcher was conducted at the Ramona burn dump site. No gnatcatchers were detected.

San Bernardino bluegrass. Surveys for San Bernardino bluegrass were undertaken in the Mendenhall, Laguna Meadow, and Bear Valley areas.

Monitoring requirements are being updated through new site-specific biological opinions. These will be updated on a priority basis.

The environmental baseline identifies the extent of occupied and suitable habitat for each species and describes ongoing activities authorized by the Forest Service in relation to the occupied and suitable habitats. Implementation of LMP strategies over time is expected to cause changes, both positive and negative, in the baseline. Annual reporting of activities that may change the baseline conditions—including recovery actions proposed, new conservation strategies and new information from surveys or inventory—for threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species is recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Cleveland NF re-initiated consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the LMP for critical habitat designations, which included updating the baseline for critical habitat and built area (see Table 9).

Table 9: Summary of baseline activities in critical habitat on the Cleveland National Forest.								
Common name ***Scientific Name***	**Critical Habitat Status**	**Total Acres**	**Built Area**	**Dispersed Recreation**	**Fuel-break**	**WUI Defense**	**WUI Threat**	**Active Grazing**
Plants								
San Diego thornmint ***Acanthomintha ilicifolia***	Designated	549	6.7	0.0	50.0	17.5	527.4	0.0
Munz's onion ***Allium munzii***	Designated	176.1	24.9	1.5	19.9	0.0	176.1	0.0
Nevin's barberry ***Berberis nevinii***	Designated	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Thread-leaved brodiaea ***Brodiaea filifolia***	Designated	266	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	106.1	0.0
Vail Lake ceanothus ***Ceanothus ophiochilus***	Designated	196.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	196.7	0.0
San Bernardino bluegrass ***Poa atropurpurea***	Designated	1,115	63.1	338.5	0.0	211.1	1,115	1,115
Invertebrates								
Quino checkerspot butterfly ***Euphydryas editha quino***	Designated	1,748	0.2/ 11.0	0.0/ 1.9	0.0/ 0.0	0.0/ 1.3	23.1/ 912.7	0.0/ 0.0
Laguna Mountains skipper ***Pyrgus ruralis lagunae***	Designated	6,654	301.0	962.2	61.1	760.2	2,783.9	2,957.9
Fish								
Southern steelhead ***Oncorhynchus mykiss***	Designated	84.7	0.0	84.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Amphibians/Reptiles								
Arroyo toad ***Bufo californicus***	Designated	0	302	0	0	0	0	0
Birds								
Southwestern willow flycatcher ***Empidonax traillii extimus***	Designated	129	0.0	4.2	0.0	0.0	129	0.0
California gnatcatcher ***Polioptila californica californica***	Designated	14,518	43.3	65.9	66.8	23.8	10,049.1	0.0

The Cleveland NF will continue to consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding riparian obligate species and ongoing activities.

Conclusions

The threatened and endangered species monitoring program is working well. A process is in place to update procedures based on updated information and monitoring results. Changes are expected through updated consultations with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Management Indicator Species

Twelve management indicator species were selected to monitor certain habitat types and issues (LMP, Part 1, pp. 44 to 45). Ten of these species are found on the Cleveland NF and will be monitored along with other indicators of progress toward achieving desired conditions for biological resources. A Cleveland NF management indicator species report was prepared to

describe the environmental baseline conditions. For California black oak there is also tracking of mortality (LMP, Part 1, Goal 1.2, pp. 20 *et seq.*). Approximately 40 management indicator species reports were completed for projects on the Cleveland NF for fiscal year 2010. None of the reports found that project implementation would affect populations or habitat trends for management indicator species. For the fifth year report, the individual MIS accounts have been updated.

Recommendations
Continue required monitoring.

As operational plans are developed for recreation sites, ensure institutional memory of problem resolution by documenting past protection measures, whether on an annual, periodic, or one-time basis. These may be documented in the INFRA database for each site.

Trends in annual indicators for Goal 6.2: Monitoring has not identified any trends in resource conditions that indicate habitat conditions for fish, wildlife, and rare plants are not stable.

Forest Goal 7.1: Natural areas in an urban context (LMP, Part 1, pg. 46)

Goal: Retain natural areas as a core for a regional network while focusing the built environment into the minimal land area necessary to support growing public needs.

Activity, practice, or effect to be measured: Built landscape extent land adjustment.

Monitoring questions: Is the Cleveland NF balancing the need for new infrastructure with restoration opportunities or land ownership adjustment to meet the desired conditions?

Reference values (long-term or annual): Built area and land ownership complexity; annual indicators.

Goal 7.1 calls for minimization of the built environment. Roads are one element of the built environment and are part of the outcome indicators for this goal. In addition, Goal 3.1 instructs the Cleveland NF to remove roads that are determined to be unnecessary through a roads analysis and the analysis required by NEPA.

Table 10 below shows that the Cleveland NF has analyzed approximately 55 miles of unauthorized routes—many of which impact riparian conservation areas or habitat for endangered or threatened species—between 2006 and 2010 to determine if they should be closed and decommissioned to preserve resource values. Approximately 50 miles of unauthorized routes have been decommissioned. Current NEPA analyses may result in additional miles of unauthorized, unneeded routes being decommissioned.

Table 10: Miles of road in Forest Service jurisdiction by type, 2006 baseline and 2010.						
Maintenance level		**NFS road**	**Permitted road**	**Unauthorized, undetermined**	**Unauthorized, unneeded, existing**	**Unauthorized, unneeded, decommissioned**
Not applicable	2006	--	--	154.0	--	4.0
	2010	--	--	99.1	11.6	49.5
1: Basic custodial care (closed)	2006	34.4	--	--	--	--
	2010	34.4	--	--	--	--
2: High clearance vehicles	2006	280.9	136.9	--	--	--
	2010	281.2	133.5	--	--	--
3: Suitable for passenger cars	2006	11.5	--	--	--	--
	2010	11.5	--	--	--	--
4: Moderate degree of user comfort	2006	54.2	--	--	--	--
	2010	54.2	--	--	--	--
5: High degree of user comfort	2006	18.1	--	--	--	--
	2010	18.1	--	--	--	--
Totals	2006	399.1	136.9	154.0	--	4.0
	2010	399.1	133.5	99.1	11.6	49.5

Trends in annual indicators for Goal 7.1: Between fiscal years 2006 and 2010, the Cleveland NF conducted NEPA analyses to determine if unauthorized routes are necessary for potential inclusion as part of its transportation system, if such routes should be actively decommissioned, or if such routes have already been naturally decommissioned by non-use and vegetation growth. Pending adequate funding, these analyses will continue in the future.

4. Part 3 Monitoring

This section addresses the monitoring and evaluation of projects and activities. As per the methodology described in the monitoring guide, 10 percent of new projects or ongoing activity sites for each type of activity were randomly selected for review and are listed in Table 11.

Table 11: Projects and activities selected for Land Management Plan monitoring and evaluation.			
Ranger district	**Project name (type and number)**	**Section in monitoring report**	**Documentation reviewed**
Descanso	Buckman Springs rest stop special use permit	3.4.1	Project record, NEPA
	Burnt Rancheria campground	3.6.2	None
	Desert View picnic area	3.6.4	None
	Guatay recreation residence tract	3.5.1	Project record, NEPA
	Laguna Meadow grazing allotment	3.3.1	Project record, NEPA
	Los Huecos recreation residence tract	3.5.2	Project record, NEPA
	Penny Pines plantation	3.2.1	Project record, NEPA

Table 11: Projects and activities selected for Land Management Plan monitoring and evaluation.			
Ranger district	**Project name (type and number)**	**Section in monitoring report**	**Documentation reviewed**
Descanso	SUA 103	3.7.2	None
	SUA 113	3.7.3	None
	Temporary wind measurement testing	3.4.3	Project record, NEPA
Palomar	Aguanga Ridge fuelbreak	3.1.1	Project record, NEPA
	Fry Creek fuels treatment	3.1.2	Project record, NEPA
	Kica Mik overlook	3.6.3	Project record, NEPA
	Observatory campground	3.6.1	None
	SDG&E road maintenance	3.4.2	Project record
	SUA 381	3.7.4	None
Trabuco	Los Pinos fuels treatment	3.1.3	Project record, NEPA
	Morgan trailhead	3.6.5	None
	North Main Divide fuels treatment	3.1.4	Project record, NEPA
	South Main Divide fuels treatment	3.1.5	Project record, NEPA
	SUA 16	3.7.1	None
	Verdugo/El Cariso grazing allotment	3.3.2	Project record, NEPA

4.1 Fuels Projects

4.1.1 Aguanga Ridge fuelbreak

Monitoring

The site is located in the Aguanga Place on the Palomar Ranger District. Activities on the fuelbreak were designed to provide fire protection for local communities, with a goal of stopping or slowing fires from the east to prevent such fires from burning into the forested and inhabited areas of Palomar Mountain. This type of strategically placed vegetation treatment is consistent with the Land Management Plan even though it is not immediately adjacent to the communities it protects.

Results

During fiscal year 2010, the fuelbreak underwent treatments on approximately 453 acres in three general areas along the eastern flank of the ranger district. The northernmost area underwent either piling or broadcast burning. The central area underwent broadcast burning. The

southernmost area underwent a rearrangement of fuels. The only problem identified was the invasion of "poodle-dog bush" (*Turricula parryi*) in some of the treated areas. The plant, which is poisonous, frequently flourishes in areas in the southern California after fires or fuel treatments.

The Best Management Practice (BMP) evaluation showed that the burn plan did not reflect soil and water protection considerations but the implementation of the burn protected soil and water values on the Cleveland NF. The BMP evaluation showed that the BMP's were effective and the groundcover and soil erosion was within Forest Service standards.

Conclusions
The project was fully consistent with Goal 1.1 of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to improve the ability of southern California communities to limit the loss of life and property and recover from the high intensity wildland fires that are a natural part of California's ecosystem (LMP, Part 1, pg. 19), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases. Biological assessments and biological evaluations for wildlife and botany, a soils report, and a heritage review for the project are on file at the Palomar Ranger District office.

Recommendations
Update the NEPA decision, including documentation of consistency with the LMP.
Monitor the spread and status of poodle-dog bush in the fuelbreak to determine if occurrence of the species declines over time.

4.1.2 Fry Creek fuels treatment

Monitoring
The site is located in the Palomar Mountain Place on the Palomar Ranger District. Activities on the Fry Creek site were analyzed and approved in a decision memo signed on December 16, 2004. The goals of the project, as described in the decision memo, were to re-establish desired conditions for natural vegetation and sustainable natural functions within the mixed conifer ecosystem and to reduce unnaturally high fuel loads to a level that reduces the threat of catastrophic wildfires on the communities of Palomar Mountain.

Results
During fiscal year 2010, the area underwent treatments on approximately 675 acres. Activities included low-intensity underburns, thinning for hazardous fuel reduction, hand or machine piling of material, and burning of piled material. The project has been implemented as designed. Design criteria from the biological assessment and biological evaluation were included in the project. The project record is on file at the ranger district office.

Conclusions
The project as accomplished on the ground met objectives. Fuels treatments at the time of the site visit in April 2010 were nearly completed for the scope of the original NEPA analysis and documentation. The area is included in the Palomar Mountain Vegetation Treatment Program NEPA analysis that is currently underway and that is projected for completion sometime in fiscal

year 2012. Under this new analysis, the project area will be larger than the area analyzed for the previous decision memo and will involve new reviews and field surveys of biological resources as well as heritage resources.

Recommendations
Ensure that the current NEPA analysis is completed in a timely fashion.

4.1.3 Los Pinos administrative site fuels treatment

Monitoring
The site is located in the Elsinore Place on the Trabuco Ranger District. Activities on the Los Pinos administrative site were analyzed and approved in a decision memo signed on August 17, 2004. The project, as described in the decision memo, consists of a fuel break around the Los Pinos administrative site and the El Cariso hotshot camp, with the purpose of providing protection from fire for facilities at those locations.

Results
During fiscal year 2010, the Los Pinos administrative site underwent activities on approximately 83 acres, according to the Forest Service Activity Tracking System database. Activities included burning of pile material, hand or machine piling of material, and rearrangement of fuels mainly in the vicinity of the El Cariso hotshot camp. The project has been implemented as designed. Design criteria from the biological assessment and biological evaluation were included in the project. The project record is on file at the ranger district office.

The fuels treatment was reviewed for application of Best Management Practices and found to meet all BMP practices and no concerns to water quality or beneficial uses due to the fuel reduction work.

Conclusions
The project was consistent with the LMP. Documentation of activities in the area was provided by the ranger district personnel. A gully that lies between the treated areas and the hotshot camp contained refuse, which was subsequently removed.

Recommendations
Determine if further fuel-reduction activities in the vicinity of the Los Pinos administrative site requires additional analysis via an environmental assessment.

4.1.4 North Main Divide fuels treatment

Monitoring
The site is located in the Elsinore Place on the Trabuco Ranger District. The North Main Divide fuelbreak system of approximately 10 miles of fuelbreaks extending from Bald Peak to Sierra Peak and includes ridges running northeast above Bedford, Eagle, Manning, Main Street,

Hagador, and Wardlow canyons. The purpose of the project is to maintain the fuelbreak system in a condition that can limit the spread of wildfire and provide a safe point of access for firefighters to attack any wildfires in the area. Activities in the area were approved in a decision memo signed on June 24, 2004.

Results
During fiscal year 2010, the North Main Divide fuelbreak underwent activities on approximately 425 acres, according to the Forest Service Activity Tracking System database. Activities included burning of piled material and broadcast burning. The project has been implemented as designed. Design criteria from the biological assessment and biological evaluation were included in the project. The project record is on file at the ranger district office

The fuels treatment was reviewed for application of Best Management Practices and found to meet all BMP practices and no concerns to water quality or beneficial uses due to the fuel reduction work.

Conclusions
An LMP consistency checklist for the project was completed. The decision memo discussed project compliance with all provisions of the Clean Air Act, and consultation with the South Coast Air Quality Management District when any prescribed burning treatments were to be used. The biological assessment and biological evaluation for wildlife and botany, a soils report, and a heritage review were all completed for the project and are on file at the Trabuco Ranger District office.

This project is consistent with Goal 1.1 of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to improve the ability of southern California communities to limit loss of life and property and recover from the high intensity wildland fires that are a natural part of California's ecosystem (LMP, Part 1, pg. 19), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases.

Recommendations
Continue with plans to undertake a new NEPA analysis for the location under an environmental assessment.

4.1.5 South Main Divide fuels treatment

Monitoring
The site is located in the Elsinore Place on the Trabuco Ranger District. Activities on the South Main Divide site were approved in a decision notice and finding of no significant impact dated March 5, 2009. The selected alternative implemented vegetation treatments on 293 acres along 3.75 miles of the existing South Main Divide fuel break. Vegetation treatment consisted of mastication, crushing, hand cutting and piling, and prescribed fire over a five-year period. The goal of project-related activities is to re-establish the effectiveness of a primary fuel break that is strategically located along a major ridgeline, and to protect life and property in the communities of Lake Elsinore, El Cariso Village, Sedco Hills, Lakeland Village, Wildomar, and Rancho Capistrano.

Results
The project, which had been reviewed in past years as part of the LMP monitoring process, was near the completion at the time of the field review. Only a 10-acre section remained to be treated. The project had been implemented as designed and the prescription for the project area had been met. Design criteria were incorporated into operational plans for the project.

Extensive mitigation was included in the environmental assessment for the project and referenced in the decision notice. Mitigation included actions taken or limitations on activities to protect and preserve soil, wildlife, plant, visual, and heritage resources. In particular, the environmental assessment contained specific mitigation to protect the long-spined spineflower and canyon oak. Prior to treatment, the sites were checked on foot for ground-nesting birds.

In addition, because project-related activities were in areas adjacent to a well-traveled roadway and routes that receive off-highway vehicle traffic, the environmental assessment contained mitigation to buffer treatment areas by leaving strips of untreated vegetation along existing roads and off-highway vehicle routes, by placing barriers along roads and off-highway vehicle routes to prevent unauthorized motorized access, and by fencing areas where necessary to discourage such access. As of the time of the previous monitoring site visit in April 2010, vegetation left as buffers to prevent illegal motorized access to treated areas has proven successful. One year later, the buffers continued to act as effective natural barriers to motorized access.

The fuels treatment was reviewed for application of Best Management Practices (BMP) and found to meet all BMP practices and no concerns to water quality or beneficial uses due to the fuel reduction work. A BMP Evaluation Protocol review was conducted as all relevant BMP's were found to be implemented and effective. Groundcover and canopy cover exceeded objectives in the burn prescription.

Conclusions
This project is consistent with Goal 1.1 of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to improve the ability of southern California communities to limit loss of life and property and recover from the high intensity wildland fires that are a natural part of California's ecosystem (LMP, Part 1, pg. 19), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases.

Activities associated with project implementation have been fully successful thus far. Mitigation and project design guidelines have been followed, and as per the decision notice, the project is consistent with the LMP. Biological assessments and biological evaluations for wildlife and botany, a soils report, and a heritage review were all completed for the project and are on file at the Trabuco Ranger District office.

Recommendations

Continue to implement the small remainder of project as scheduled, and continue successful adherence to mitigation and design criteria.

Continue to monitor treatment areas to ensure that no unauthorized motorized vehicle access has occurred. In areas in which vegetation buffers have not successfully prevented such access, use rocks, barriers, or fences to prevent further incursions. If additional activities in the area are required in the future, undertake a new environmental analysis.

4.2 Vegetation Projects

4.2.1 Penny Pines plantation

Monitoring
The Penny Pines plantation thinning project is in the Laguna Place on the Descanso Ranger District. Areas had been piled and burned or chipped, with the chips scattered over portions of the plantation, or placed along an unused roadbed to prevent or lessen potential erosion.

Results
The activities in fiscal year 2010 represented the third entry into the area. The first entry was in the 1990s. Activities in the Penny Pines plantation are geared toward saving the plantation by thinning to prevent the possibility of a stand-replacing fire. Stumps were cut flush to the ground level and Sporax was applied.

Some species of trees planted as part of the Penny Pines program were not indigenous to the Laguna Mountain area in particular or the Cleveland NF in general.

All mitigation measures were included in the contract to ensure that they were implemented. The biological assessment and biological evaluation were completed for the project and included in the project record.

The plantation thinning treatment was reviewed for application of Best Management Practices (BMP) and found to meet all BMP practices and no concerns relevant negative effects to water quality or beneficial uses were found. A BMP Evaluation Protocol review was conducted as all relevant BMP's were found to be implemented and effective. Groundcover and canopy cover exceeded objectives.

Conclusions
The project has been implemented as designed. Mitigation measures are listed in the decision documentation. Design criteria were incorporated into operational plans for the project. The project is consistent with Goal 1.1 of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to improve the ability of southern California communities to limit loss of life and property and recover from the high intensity wildland fires that are a natural part of California's ecosystem (LMP, Part 1, pg. 19), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases.

Recommendations

The Descanso Ranger District did an excellent job ensuring that mitigation was clearly listed in the project record.

4.3 Livestock Grazing Allotments

4.3.1 Laguna Meadow grazing allotment

Monitoring
The allotment is in the Laguna Place on the Descanso Ranger District. This was one of two allotments visited during the monitoring process, as established by protocol which directs the Cleveland NF to monitor ten percent of all on-going activities on the national forest.

Results
The decision notice and finding of no significant impact authorizing grazing on the allotment was signed in September 2010. A new permit is scheduled to be written during the summer of 2010. Monitoring done as part of routine permit administration on the Laguna Meadow allotment has determined that existing resource conditions are meeting or moving toward desired conditions and the planning project file documents that management is consistent with all standards and goals detailed in the LMP.

If problems are identified, the Cleveland NF range management specialist works with the permittees through modifying or adjusting the annual operating plans. The project file documents LMP consistency. Standards from the LMP regarding livestock grazing were incorporated into the existing permit and will be incorporated into the new permit. Season of use and exclosure mitigations were incorporated. The project was implemented as designed.

Recreationists believed to be mountain bikers have damaged fences in order to gain access to some locations and trails. Mountain bike cattle guards are being installed as a solution that allows recreationists to use the area while preventing livestock from getting access to areas outside the allotment.

A BMP evaluation protocol was completed for the site; all BMP's were noted to be implemented and effective.

Conclusions
The project effort is consistent with Goal 6.1 of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to move toward improved rangeland conditions as indicated by key range sites (LMP, Part 1., pg. 42), as well as with other objectives, standards and place emphases found in the LMP. Grazing management complies with the terms and conditions of the April 27, 2001 biological opinion for the Cleveland NF grazing program.

Recommendations
The range specialist did a commendable job maintain communication with the permittee regarding range condition.
Continue managing to standards. Seasons of use and rotations are appropriate.
Possibly install interpretive signs near trailheads or campgrounds to educate users on the history of livestock in the multiple-use history of the Forest Service and the Laguna Mountain area.

4.3.2 Verdugo/El Cariso grazing allotment

Monitoring
The allotment is in the San Mateo Place on the Trabuco Ranger District. This was one of two allotments visited during the monitoring process, as established by protocol which directs the Cleveland NF to monitor ten percent of all on-going activities on the national forest.

Results
Monitoring done as part of routine permit administration on the Verdugo/El Cariso allotment has determined that existing resource conditions are meeting or moving toward desired conditions and the planning project file documents that management is consistent with all standards and goals detailed in the LMP. One of the spring improvements in the allotment is broken and needs to be replaced. Field visits to determine alternatives have been taken and a decision is pending. The broken improvement does not move the allotment out of compliance.

If additional problems are identified, the Cleveland NF range management specialist works with the permittee through modifying or adjusting the annual operating plans. The project file documents LMP consistency. Standards from the LMP regarding livestock grazing were incorporated into the permit. The allotment is managed via term permit and annual operating instructions. The project was implemented as designed. NEPA was completed for the allotment via a decision memo signed in 2007. Mitigation and other design criteria implemented for the allotment include an adjusted season of use based on annual monitoring.

A BMP evaluation protocol was completed for the site; all BMP's were noted to be implemented and effective.

Conclusions
The project is consistent with Goal 6.1 of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to move toward improved rangeland conditions as indicated by key range sites (LMP, Part 1., pg. 42), as well as with other objectives, standards and place emphases found in the LMP. Grazing management complies with the terms and conditions of the April 27, 2001 biological opinion for the Cleveland NF grazing program.

Recommendations
The range specialist did a commendable job ensuring that the annual operating plan accounted for any changed conditions.
Continue managing to standards. Seasons of use and rotations are appropriate.

4.4 Lands Special Uses

4.4.1 Buckman Springs Rest Stop

Monitoring
The Buckman Springs Rest Stop is located along Interstate 8 and is in the Morena Place on the Descanso Ranger District. Authorization of construction improvements at the rest stop was made in a decision memo signed in November 2008. The rest stop is located on approximately 20 acres within the existing right-of-way and was designed to provide facilities to the traveling public. The previous special use permit for use of the area had expired in 2005. Caltrans had requested a re-issuance of the expired permit and proposed upgrades to the restroom facilities to meet federal law, in particular the Americans with Disabilities Act. The proposed facilities were to be reconstructed on the same footprint as existing facilities.

Results
An LMP consistency review has been completed. The project file was well organized and contains the required NEPA documentation, including all necessary biological evaluations and assessments and the heritage program manager report.

Conclusions
The project is consistent with Goal 3.1 of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to provide for public use and natural resource protection (LMP, Part 1, pg. 33), with Goal 7.1, which directs the Cleveland NF to retain natural areas as a core for a regional network while focusing the built environment into the minimum land area needed to support growing public needs (LMP, Part 1, pg. 46), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases.

Recommendations
Continue any monitoring associated with construction-related activities at the rest stop.

4.4.2 San Diego Gas and Electric Company Road Maintenance

Monitoring
San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) has 70 permits for electric transmission and distribution facilities located on the Descanso, Palomar, and Trabuco ranger districts of the Cleveland NF. The facilities include access roads which require regular maintenance to protect resources and enable access the electric system infrastructure. In 2010, SDG&E proposed widespread road maintenance activities on Cleveland NF, which included more comprehensive implementation of best management practices. Field monitoring of the activities was completed by Forest Service special uses administrators.

Results
A biological assessment and biological evaluation for continued operation and maintenance of SDG&E facilities on the Cleveland NF was completed in 2005. A heritage resources compliance

memo was prepared in 2010 for the road maintenance activity. No LMP consistency checklist was completed for the activity; however, ongoing operation and maintenance of existing SDG&E facilities are consistent with the LMP. The permits authorizing the SDG&E facilities on the Cleveland NF are currently expired—most of them expired in 1994. The Cleveland NF and SDG&E have been working to re-authorize the facilities. Initiation of an environmental impact statement/environmental impact report is expected in February 2012.

Conclusions
The project is consistent with Goal 4.1a of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to administer minerals and energy resource development while protecting ecosystem health (LMP, Part 1, pg. 37), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases.

Recommendations
Complete the environmental impact statement to renew the expired permits as soon as feasible.

4.4.3 Temporary Wind Measurement Testing

Monitoring
A temporary wind measurement tower was installed on the Descanso Ranger District along Fred Canyon Road within the Morena Place. The purpose of the tower is to measure and collect data on the wind resource in the area to analyze the feasibility of development of wind energy generation facilities. Three towers were proposed and approved for installation, but only one was eventually constructed by the proponent. The tower was authorized by a Special Use Permit for a three year duration.

Results
An LMP consistency review was prepared for the project and was in the case file. A decision memo signed in January 2010, as well as a biological assessment, biological evaluation, and heritage resources memo were completed for the project. The project file was well organized and contained all the required documentation.

Conclusions
The project is consistent with Goal 4.1b of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to administer renewable energy resource developments while protecting ecosystem health (LMP, Part 1, pg. 38), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases.

Recommendations
Continue with administration of the special use permit to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions.

4.5 Recreation Special Uses

4.5.1 Guatay Recreation Residence Tract

Monitoring
This tract, which consists of three cabins, is located in the Sweetwater Place on the Descanso Ranger District. This was one of two recreation residents tracts visited during the monitoring process, as established by protocol which directs the Cleveland NF to monitor 10 percent of all on-going activities on the national forest.

Results
NEPA for the recreation residence tracts was complete with a decision notice and finding of no significant impact signed on May 11, 2009. New special use permits with a 20-year duration were issued to current permit holders who were found to be in full compliance with the terms and conditions of their existing permits. Current permit holders who were found not to be in full compliance with the terms and conditions of their existing permits were be issued a short-duration permit to take actions to achieve full compliance. Permit holders who do not achieve full compliance within the allotted timeframe may be required to sell or remove all structures. The biological evaluation and biological assessment, as well as the heritage report, are up-to-date.

Information on maintaining 30-foot and 100-foot fuels clearances around structures, as required to reduce the threat of wildfire damage, was sent to all recreation residence permittees in the area.

Conclusions
Management of the recreation residence tract is consistent with Goal 3.1 of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to provide for public use and natural resource protection (LMP, Part 1, pg. 33), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases.

Recommendations
The Descanso Ranger District permit administration did an excellent job of maintaining clear channels of contact with permittees that facilitated exchange of information, especially with regard to ensuring fuel clearance requirements.
Continue administration in accordance with the new permits.

4.5.2 Los Huecos Recreation Residence Tract

Monitoring
This tract is located in the Laguna Place on the Descanso Ranger District. This was one of two recreation residence tracts visited during the monitoring process, as established by protocol which directs the Cleveland NF to monitor 10 percent of all on-going activities on the national forest.

Results
NEPA for the recreation residence tracts was complete with a decision notice and finding of no significant impact signed on May 11, 2009. New special use permits with a 20-year duration were issued to current permit holders who were found to be in full compliance with the terms and conditions of their existing permits. Current permit holders who were found not to be in full compliance with the terms and conditions of their existing permits were issued a short-duration permit to take actions to achieve full compliance. Permit holders who do not achieve full compliance within the allotted timeframe may be required to sell or remove all structures. Two of the permittees at this tract received a term permit while the remainder was issued permits with a 20-year duration.

Conclusions
Management of the recreation residence tract is consistent with Goal 3.1 of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to provide for public use and natural resource protection (LMP, Part 1, pg. 33), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases.

Recommendations
The Descanso Ranger District permit administration did an excellent job of maintaining clear channels of contact with permittees that facilitated exchange of information, especially with regard to ensuring fuel clearance requirements.
Continue administration in accordance with the new permits.

4.6 Recreation Projects and Ongoing Activities

4.6.1 Observatory Campground

Monitoring
The campground is an ongoing activity in the Palomar Place on the Palomar Ranger District. This was one of two campgrounds visited during the monitoring process, as established by protocol which directs the Cleveland NF to monitor 10 percent of all on-going activities on the national forest.

This is the highest use campground on the Palomar Ranger District. Due to its proximity to the Palomar Observatory, it is a popular destination for star-gazing events and has a number of concrete slabs that were constructed as foundations on which attendees can place their telescopes. The campground is open annual from roughly the beginning of May until the end of November. Volunteer hosts live on-site during the campground's open season.

Results
The campground was closed at the time of the site visit. The only resource issue identified at the site was the presence of Laguna Mountain skipper habitat, which was protected by fencing. Handicap-accessible sites lacked shade. A new kiosk was constructed near the entrance of the campground two years ago. A fee tube that was damaged last year was fixed in order to make it a less attractive target to thieves.

A BMP evaluation protocol was completed for the site; all BMP's were noted to be implemented and effective. There are several sites and faucets within 100 feet of the streamside management zone but are historic placements, movement of that infrastructure is pending planning and funding.

Conclusions
The overall operation of the campground is consistent with Goal 3.1 of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to provide for public use and natural resource protection (LMP, Part 1, pg. 33), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases.

Recommendations
Find a way to provide shade to the handicap-accessible campsites, either via planting vegetation or by construction of ramadas or other structures.
Add a gold-spotted oak borer warning sign to the kiosk near the entrance of the campground, telling users of the area to burn their wood on-site and not to move firewood around from one location in or near the national forest to another.

4.6.2 Burnt Rancheria Campground

Monitoring
The campground is an ongoing activity in the Laguna Place on the Descanso Ranger District. This was one of two campgrounds visited during the monitoring process, as established by protocol which directs the Cleveland NF to monitor 10 percent of all on-going activities on the national forest.

The campground is usually open from approximately April 15 until the end of October, subject to the weather.

Results
The campground was closed at the time of the site visit. The campground was operated by the Forest Service until the mid 1990s, at which time it was moved into management by a concessionaire. In 2003 the current concessionaire began operating the facility.

Some dead and downed trees were blocking a few of the campsites. The kiosk in the campground is scheduled to be replaced as part of a capital improvement project within the next few years. There is an issue with a blocked culvert in the Cherry Loop portion of the campground. Adequate culinary water to the campground is an issue. Analyses are underway to locate better supplies of water to the campground as well as other locations.

A BMP evaluation protocol was completed for the site; all BMP's were noted to be implemented and effective.

Conclusions
Operation of the campground was consistent with Goal 3.1 of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to provide for public use and natural resource protection (LMP, Part 1, pg. 33), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases.

Recommendations
Possibly put the campsites on a national, on-line reservation system.
Fix the culvert that has a propensity to become clogged.

4.6.3 Kica Mik Overlook

Monitoring
The overlook and information kiosk is an ongoing activity in the Palomar Mountain Place on the Palomar Ranger District. This was an interpretive site visited during the monitoring process, as established by monitoring protocol.

Results
The kiosk is an ongoing recreation activity—no projects are planned regarding use of the site. Funds from the Witch/Poomacha fire were used to create and construct the interpretive signs at the overlook. San Diego County snowplows damaged concrete parking blocks during the previous winter. Users often dump trash because there is no trash receptacle. Several large areas of bare soil were observed and significant sheet and rill erosion was occurring. A large contribution to the erosion was the large storm events of the area, in a short period of time Palomar Mountain received over 20 inches of precipitation.

Conclusions
The information kiosk is consistent with Goal 3.1 of the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to provide for public use and natural resource protection (LMP, Part 1, pg. 33), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases. The site is well designed. Reflective carsonite-type posts were installed at a "false" turn out just north of the overlook along the county road to prevent dangerous parking. Materials have been purchase to stabilize the site over the next storm while engineering plans are designs to correct erosions issues at the site.

Recommendations
Continue periodic checks of the location to report any potential problems with vandalism or trash dumping. Determine if it would be feasible to place a trash receptacle on-site and contract for trash removal.

The Penny Pines monument should be located in the "island" in the middle of the parking area.
Look at revegetating or restoring areas around the perimeter of the parking area, as well as on the "island," to reduce or eliminate soil erosion.
Recreation staff will order new parking blocks as replacement for the damaged ones.
Possibly install picnic benches at the site in the future.

4.6.4 Desert View Picnic Area

Monitoring
The picnic area is an ongoing activity in the Laguna Place on the Descanso Ranger District. This was a recreation area visited during the monitoring process, as established by monitoring protocol.

Results
The picnic area is an ongoing recreation activity—no projects are planned regarding use of the site, and there is no associated NEPA decision document for the picnic area. There was no operation and maintenance file for the site. Water is an issue for the flush bathroom facilities. The facilities are locked during snow play season in winter and portable toilets are transported to the area instead. The Descanso Ranger District had to cease the bathroom cleaning contract for the picnic area, so facility cleaning duties defaulted to the district's recreation staff.

Some fires have burned out of the designated fire rings in the area. Concrete parking blocks have been damaged and many are beginning to crumble. There have not been any plans for sometime to change anything at the picnic area.

A BMP evaluation protocol was completed for the site; all BMP's were obseved to be implemented and effective.

Conclusions
Operation and maintenance of the picnic area is consistent with Goal 3.1 in the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to provide for public use and natural resource protection (LMP, Part 1, pg. 33), as well as LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases. The site had a waste disposal dumpster and was fairly clean of trash. Picnic sites and tables were in decent to good condition.

Recommendations
Determine if crumbling concrete parking blocks present a safety hazard and if they therefore need to be repaired or replaced.
Determine if sufficient funding is available to re-instate a bathroom cleaning contract.

4.6.5 Morgan Trailhead

Monitoring
The trailhead is an ongoing activity in the Elsinore Place on the Trabuco Ranger District. This was a trailhead visited during the monitoring process, as established by monitoring protocol. The trail provides access into the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness Area

Results
There was no operation and maintenance file nor any NEPA decision for this site; however, the location is believed to have been developed into a trailhead in the 1960s.

The trailhead sign along the South Main Divide Road had been replaced. Trash collection occurs weekly. A picnic table has been added to the location.

There has been periodic vandalism to the wilderness boundary sign, as well as periodic issues with motorcycles, mountain bikes, and horses cutting trail in the area. A sign with a map was stolen from the kiosk, which is otherwise well maintained.

A BMP evaluation protocol was completed for the site; all BMP's were observed to be implemented and effective.

Conclusions
The trailhead is consistent with Goal 3.1 in the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to provide for public use and natural resource protection (LMP, Part 1, pg. 33), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases. In general, the site was well managed and clean of garbage.

Recommendations
Complete an LMP consistency review checklist for the trailhead.
Study the potential to install barriers or use vegetation to prevent incursions of non-foot traffic onto the trail or in the area.

4.7 Road Projects or Maintenance

4.7.1 SUA 16

Monitoring
This route segment is in the Elsinore Place on the Trabuco Ranger District. The segment appeared in the Cleveland NF geographic database (Infra) as one that exists but for which a use or authorization is not known.

Results
The route segment is not authorized under any special use permit. During the monitoring site visit, a general outline of where the route was could be seen, but did not appear passable to any motorized or mechanized vehicles. The segment had revegetated naturally. No significant effects to water quality were observed during the monitoring.

Conclusions
The route segment is not consistent with Goal 3.1 in the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to provide for public use and natural resource protection (LMP, Part 1, pg. 33), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases. In particular, Goal 3.1 includes direction to maintain a transportation system of roads and trails that is environmentally sound and efficient to manage, as well as reduce the number of inventoried unclassified roads.

Recommendations
Remove the route segment from the Cleveland NF geographic database because it is not authorized under a permit and it serves no administrative function. Continue to allow the traces of the roadbed to revegetate naturally.

4.7.2 SUA 103

Monitoring
This route segment is in the Laguna Place on the Descanso Ranger District. The segment appeared in the Cleveland NF geographic database (Infra) as one that exists but for which a use or authorization is not known.

Results
The route segment provides access to a private in-holding and is authorized under a special use permit. During the monitoring site visit, the entire length of the segment was traversed. The permit holder had created a substandard crossing that serves as a source of sediment into the stream.

Conclusions
The route segment is not consistent with Goal 3.1 in the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to provide for public use and natural resource protection (LMP, Part 1, pg. 33), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases. In particular, Goal 3.1 includes direction to maintain a transportation system of roads and trails that is environmentally sound and efficient to manage, as well as reduce the number of inventoried unclassified roads.

Recommendations
Contact the permit holder to ensure that all necessary corrections and modifications to the stream crossing are performed, and that all terms and conditions of the permit are met.

4.7.3 SUA 113

Monitoring
This route segment is in the Laguna Place on the Descanso Ranger District. The segment appeared in the Cleveland NF geographic database (Infra) as one that exists but for which a use or authorization is not known.

Results
The route segment is not authorized under any special use permit. During the monitoring site visit, the administrative road that leads to this segment was driven. The segment itself is more of a trail than a road. Evidence of foot and mountain bike traffic was seen. The segment may have provided motorized vehicle access at one time, but there is no evidence of such use within the recent past. The roadbed is well-vegetated and shows little to no signs of rilling or erosion. The segment is not part of the current motorized vehicle use map for the Cleveland NF, nor does it serve any administrative purpose. No significant effects to water quality were observed during the monitoring.

Conclusions
The route segment is not consistent with Goal 3.1 in the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to provide for public use and natural resource protection (LMP, Part 1, pg. 33), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases. In particular, Goal 3.1 includes direction to maintain a transportation system of roads and trails that is environmentally sound and efficient to manage, as well as reduce the number of inventoried unclassified roads.

Recommendations
Remove the route segment from the Cleveland NF geographic database because it is not authorized under a permit and it serves no administrative function. Continue to allow the traces of the roadbed to revegetate naturally.

4.7.4 SUA 381

Monitoring
This segment is in the San Dieguito-Black Mountain Place on the Palomar Ranger District. At the time of the site visit, the road was impassable.

Results
Further research determined that the road segment provides access to a mining claim.

Conclusions
The route segment is consistent with Goal 3.1 in the LMP, which directs the Cleveland NF to provide for public use and natural resource protection (LMP, Part 1, pg. 33), as well as other LMP objectives, standards, and place emphases. In particular, Goal 3.1 includes direction to maintain a transportation system of roads and trails that is environmentally sound and efficient to manage, as well as reduce the number of inventoried unclassified roads. No significant effects to water quality were observed during the monitoring.

Recommendations
Ensure that the road is monitored to ensure that resource damage resulting from use and/or heavy rainfall does not occur.

5. LMP Monitoring Protocol Recommendations

This year the team continued with the open-ended-question format used for the first time in the fiscal year 2008 monitoring and evaluation report. The monitoring guide, as revised in the spring of 2009, was used. The guide is available to the public upon request to the Cleveland NF environmental coordinator.

6. Monitoring Team Recommendations

The fiscal year 2010 monitoring team re-emphasized recommendations from previous reports, including:
Continue progress made to analyze the need for road segments that are found on the Cleveland NF but which are not part of the National Forest Transportation system, are not authorized under a special use permit, and are not needed for administrative use. Where applicable, after NEPA analysis has been completed, remove these road segments from the Cleveland NF geographic database.

An additional recommendation includes using silvicultural expertise on interdisciplinary teams for projects that involve applicable vegetation management projects on the Cleveland NF.

7. Potential LMP Amendments and Corrections

Monitoring did not surface a need for significant amendment of the plan. To date, the following individual project decisions have included insignificant amendments of the Cleveland LMP: 1) Motorized Travel Management (November 12, 2008); 2) West-Wide Energy Corridor (January 14, 2009); and Sunrise Powerlink (July 9, 2010). A decision to designate the El Cariso communications site on the Trabuco Ranger District was signed in March 2011 and will be discussed in the monitoring and evaluation report for fiscal year 2011.

The fiscal year 2008 monitoring and evaluation report anticipated the proposed exchange of the Viejas and Hulburd tracts through a NEPA planning process, which would result in a plan amendment to remove these tracts from "Other Designations—Recreation Residence Tracts" table 479 (LMP, Part 2, p. 13). This project remains in the first stages of the planning process.

8. Action Plan, Forest Leadership Team

The following are the actions that will be taken in response to LMP monitoring, including those actions from past monitoring that need to continue:

Continue efforts to work together with other agencies and partners to plan and carry out a coordinated strategic plan of research and management actions to address the gold spotted oak borer and oak mortality situation.

Emphasize integrated fuels treatments in Fire Regime I (montane conifer) where there is work to be done to address the missed fire return, risk of loss, and protection of mountain communities, and also where the Cleveland NF can rely on a broad range of public support for implementing treatments that are needed to move toward the desired condition. The Cleveland NF can also maintain existing fuelbreaks as well as include community protection projects in Fire Regime IV. Continue to engage the interested public in a dialogue about fuels issues and collaboration on fuels treatments.

Continue to emphasize decommissioning of undetermined, unneeded roads and resolving the status of "temporary roads." This work serves to improve watershed function and further LMP goals and objectives.

Continue to fine tune an interdisciplinary process for developing the program of work, striving to create an integrated program of work that is responsive to common priorities under the LMP.

Focus project identification with an emphasis on an integrated watershed management approach to take advantage of efficiencies of scale and geographic locations.

Continue to prepare operations and maintenance plans for Forest Service recreation sites over time.

9. Public Participation

Groups or individuals who have indicated an interest in Land Management Plan monitoring received a postcard notifying them of the availability of this report on the Cleveland NF web site, or whom to contact to obtain a print version of this document.

10. Members of the Monitoring Team

Members of the fiscal year 2010 monitoring team were:

Fuels/Fire:	Stephen Fillmore, Cleveland NF fuels specialist
Roads/Engineering:	Mark Marquette, Cleveland NF road manager
Soils/Hydrology:	Jason Jimenez, Cleveland NF hydrologist
Planning:	Pete Gomben, Cleveland NF environmental coordinator
Resources/Planning:	Gloria Silva, Cleveland NF resources staff officer

Program monitoring information was contributed by:

Archaeology:	Steve Harvey, Cleveland NF heritage resource program manager
Wildlife:	Kirsten Winter, Cleveland NF biologist
Range:	Lance Criley, Cleveland NF range management specialist

Members of the monitoring team express their gratitude to the program and project leaders on the Descanso, Palomar, and Trabuco ranger districts, for their support throughout the monitoring and evaluation process, including efforts to compile planning documents and host field project site visits.